

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification on page 10, first full paragraph as follows:

A preferred inline stripper 30 passes the extract fluid through a venturi-like conduit wherein the fluid flow 68 is first constricted and forced through a narrow throat 32 or nozzle-type structure and then caused to expand upon exit from the throat 32 in an expander section. The resultant expansion produces an enhanced degree of turbulence and mixing in the fluid in the conduit as well as misting when a fluid flow containing an appreciable liquid content passes through the venturi followed by an abrupt expansion and accompanying pressure change. The turbulence, mixing, and misting greatly enlarges the surface area of the vapor liquid interfaces, thereby significantly enhancing the transfer of the volatile contaminants from the liquid phase to the vapor phase.

Please amend the specification on page 10, second full paragraph as follows:

In certain embodiments of the invention, it is preferred to inject a flow of compressed gas 80, preferably air, into the extract as it passes through the stripper conduit, most preferably of the nearest point of the throat although compressed air may be injected at other locations as well in accordance with the invention. The compressed air further increases the turbulence and vapor-liquid interface in the fluid. Injection of compressed air is especially preferred if the extracted fluid is substantially a liquid phase as opposed to being a two-phase mixture; however, injecting compressed air in a two-phase mixture is also advantageous and may also be preferred.

Please amend the specification on page 14, third full paragraph as follows:

As a result, the liquid phase 56 emerging from the separator 52 may be a flow of substantially clean groundwater. In many instances, the contaminant levels in the groundwater are sufficiently reduced after a single pass through the inline stripper 30 that the water may be directly discharged from the separator 52, for example via a pump 74, back into the environment without any further treatment.

Please amend the specification on page 15, first full paragraph as follows:

The separated vapor phase stream 54 which contains most of the VOC's collected from the extract may also be treated in one or more additional treatment vessels 70, 72 to recover and / or destroy the contaminants. For instance, contaminant in the vapor phase may be recovered by absorption onto activated carbon or the vapors may be reactively destroyed such as by combustion if the contaminant is sufficiently flammable or by means of chemical reaction using reagents and treatments known to those of ordinary skill. Of course if the contaminants levels are within permissible limits, the vapors may also be discharged directly to the atmosphere.